LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
Information Bulletin
Vol. 67, No. 12 December 2008

LIBRARY LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
Information Bulletin

Vol. 67, No. 12 December 2008

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

217

220

228

On the Cover: The Library looks to its future by considering the changing world of bibliographic control and its acquisitions and cataloging functions through internal reorganization, collaboration with other parties and day-to-day operations. *Photos by Beth Davis-Brown and Erin Allen.*

Cover Story: The Library convened an advisory group to look at the future of bibliographic control in the digital age. 211

A New Order: After years of planning, the Library has completely reorganized its acquisition and cataloging functions. 213

Hands Across the Water: American and Chinese national libraries will cooperate in the new World Digital Library project. 216

Little Shop of Lyrics: The Library has acquired the papers of noted stage and film lyricist Howard Ashman. 217

Government Work: Twelve federal agencies have agreed to develop a common set of digitization guidelines and practices. 218

Educational Expertise: The Library has assembled a group of teachers and education experts to develop a new professional development curriculum of K-12 educators. 219

Rare and Special: At a recent open house, dozens of new acquisitions to the Library's Rare Book and Special Collections Division were showcased. 220

Iranian Jewry: The Library co-sponsored a symposium on the history, culture and contemporary status of Jews in Iran. 223

Honored Justice: Associate Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor received the 2008 Wickersham Award. 224

'Things Fall Apart': Distinguished scholars came to the Library to discuss the impact and significance of Chinua Achebe's ground-breaking novel "Things Fall Apart." 226

Author's Choice: Chinua Achebe read a favorite passage from "Things Fall Apart" during a symposium on the novel. 228

Native Pride: Activist Susan Shown Harjo delivered the Native American Heritage Month keynote address at the Library. 229

Staff News from the Library of Congress 230

The Library of Congress Information Bulletin (ISSN 0041-7904) is issued 10 times a year by the Public Affairs Office of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, academic libraries, learned societies and allied organizations in the United States. It is also available on the web at **www.loc.gov/today/**.

Research institutions and educational organizations in other countries may arrange to receive the Bulletin on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Director for Acquisitions and Support Services, 101 Independence Avenue S.E., Washington DC 20540-4100. All other correspondence should be addressed to the Information Bulletin, Public Affairs Office, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave. S.E., Washington DC 20540-1610, e-mail pao@loc.gov.

MATT RAYMOND, Executive Editor
AUDREY FISCHER, Editor
JOHN H. SAYERS, Art Director
SUSAN WASHINGTON, Designer

THE FUTURE OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL

Library Convenes Advisory Group to Look Forward

Bibliographic control is a major component of the Library of Congress's mission, to collect, preserve and provide access to knowledge. The Library works with the broader library community to develop cataloging guidelines, and it endeavors to involve the community as it considers any changes. This was demonstrated through a collaborative, multi-year effort to study the future of bibliographic control, which culminated with the publication of "On the Record: Report of the Library of Congress Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control." The report and its recommendations are the subject of the following article.

Libraries are looking at ways to catalog the avalanche of both print and digital materials that come to them for classification and control, and library managers worldwide recognize the need to examine critically the role of the catalog and its relationship to other methods of finding information. The Library of Congress took the lead in assembling an independent group to study the future of bibliographic control.

BACKGROUND

At the annual conference of the American Library Association in New Orleans in June 2006, Associate Librarian for Library Services Deanna Marcum announced her intention to convene an advisory group to consider how bibliographic control will be applied in the digital environment. In light of advances in search-engine technology, the popularity of the Internet and the influx of electronic information resources, Marcum believed that an outside group should be formed to examine these issues.

"It will give us an opportunity to begin thinking collectively about the future," said Marcum. "I don't want to have a national referendum on cataloging decisions one by one. Instead, I want us to engage in higher-level thinking about the broad issues and then begin working them through with our colleagues in the library community."

In November 2006, Marcum officially convened the Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control, and she solicited professional associations and organizations to nominate members. Co-chaired by José-Marie Griffiths of the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Olivia Madison of the Iowa State University Library, the group included representatives from the public and private sectors.

"I agreed to chair this group because these issues are facing all libraries," said Griffiths. She termed it an important opportunity for different sectors of the information profession to examine a common problem and recommend solutions that will benefit librarians and users.

Building on the work and results of the Library's Bicentennial Conference on Bibliographic Control for the New Millennium in 2000 (**www.loc.gov/catdir/bibcontrol/**), the group was tasked by Marcum to:

- Present findings on how bibligraphic control and other descriptive practices can effectively support management of and access to library materials in the evolving information and technology environment,
- Recommend ways in which the library community can collectively move toward achieving this vision, and
- Advise the Library of Congress on its role and priorities.

Michaela McNichol

Associate Librarian for Library Services Deanna Marcum

WORKING GROUP

During its inaugural meeting at the Library of Congress Nov. 2–3, 2006, group members concluded that, rather than planning a single summit meeting on the future of bibliographic control, it would schedule three regional meetings during 2007 to gather materials and solicit input for its report.

The Working Group also organized issues and affected parties into three broad categories: Uses and Users, Structures and Standards, and Economics and Organization. Each category was the focus of one regional meeting in 2007. The meetings were preceded by distribution of a background paper that gave an overview of the current environment in which bibliographic control operates.

The meetings were held in Mountain View, Calif., at Google headquarters; Chicago, at the American Library Association's headquarters; and in Washington, D.C., at the Library of Congress. Public comment was solicited via a website and at regional meetings held throughout the summer of 2007. In August 2007, the working group met at the University of California, San Diego, and with the facilitation of consultants Karen Coyle and Nancy Fallgren drafted the preliminary report.

PRELIMINARY REPORT PRESENTED TO LIBRARY STAFF

The production of bibliographic records in the digital age must be made more efficient through the cooperation of many agencies and vendors, through the sharing of these records, and through the use of data produced during all phases of the overall supply chain. This

was the Working Group's theme as it briefed a capacity crowd of Library staff in the Coolidge Auditorium on Nov. 13. (The presentation was also webcast live and is accessible at **www.loc.gov/webcasts/**).

"I am very pleased with the approach taken by the working group," Marcum said. "Instead of focusing solely on the Library of Congress, the members of the group looked at the bibliographic ecosystem and thought deeply about the contributions that can and should be made by all of its parts."

Olivia Madison, representing the Association of Research Libraries, agreed.

"We recognize that you do not have the resources to do everything," said Madison. "These recommendations are not for the Library of Congress alone but are intended for the entire library and library vendor communities."

The draft report was mounted on the Working Group website at **www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/** on Dec. 1, 2007. Comments were solicited through Dec. 15, 2007. The working group reviewed and incorporated the feedback into its final report, which was presented to Marcum on Jan. 9, 2008.

FINAL REPORT

"On the Record: Report of the Library of Congress Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control" (**www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/**) made 108 recommendations to the Library of Congress, other libraries, and the larger bibliographic community subcategorized in the following areas:

- Increase the efficiency of bibliographic production for all libraries through cooperation and sharing of bibliographic records and through use of data produced in the overall supply chain.
- Transfer effort into high-value activity. In particular, provide greater value for knowledge creation by leveraging access for unique materials held by libraries that are currently hidden and underused.
- Position technology by recognizing that the web is libraries' technology platform as well as the appropriate platform for standards. Recognize that users are not only people but also applications that interact with library data.
- Position the library community for the future by adding evaluative, qualitative and quantitative analyses of resources. Work to realize the potential of the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) framework.
- Strengthen the library and information science profession through education and through development of metrics that will inform decision-making now and in the future.

Marcum discussed the report at the American Library Association's mid-winter meeting in Philadelphia in January 2008. She focused on the recommendations that called for more collaboration and cooperation on the part of the Library and cited the work already being done on that front.

Working Group Members

- **José-Marie Griffiths** (co-chair) School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- **Richard Amelung** for the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL)
- **Diane Dates Casey, Janet Swan Hill, and Sally G. Smith** for the American Library Association (ALA)
- **Brian E.C. Schottlaender, Olivia M.A. Madison (co-chair), and Judith Nadler** representing the Association of Research Libraries (ARL)
- **John Latham** for the Special Libraries Association (SLA)
- **Robert Wolven** for the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC)
- **Daniel Clancy** for the Google Company
- **Jay Girotto** for the Microsoft Corporation
- **Christopher Cole** for the National Federation of Advanced Information Services (NFAIS)
- **Diane Boehr** for the Medical Library Association (MLA)
- At-large members: **Clifford A. Lynch**, Coalition for Networked Information (CNI); **Lorcan Dempsey**, OCLC

Beth Davis-Brown

Beth Davis-Brown

Members of the Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control, convening at the Library to meet with Deanna Marcum and Library of Congress James Billington, included, from left, Brian Schottlaender, Janet Swan Hill, Sally Smith, José-Marie Griffiths Lorcan Dempsey, Robert Wolven, Richard Amelung, Judith Nadler, Olivia Madison and Clifford Lynch.

"Many people don't know how much we are doing now," Marcum told Library staff at a briefing prior to the ALA meeting.

Marcum met her stated goal of responding to all 108 recommendations by June 1, 2008. To do so, she asked a number of people and committees at the Library to review and respond to the report's recommendations. These included Library Services' internal planning group on bibliographic control chaired by Bruce Knarr; Beacher Wiggins, director for acquisitions and bibliographic access, and his management team; and reference librarian Thomas Mann.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS RESPONDS

On behalf of the Library of Congress, Marcum issued a comprehensive response to the report on June 1 (**www.loc.gov/bibliographic-future/**).

"On the basis of this internal analysis, the Library of Congress accepts and endorses the recommendations of the Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control," wrote Marcum. "We are eager to work with colleagues nationally and internationally to achieve this vision that is so compellingly draw in 'On the Record.'"

The next steps were for the Library of Congress to consider its priorities for implementing recommendations in the report, both internally and in concert with other libraries. An internal working group has categorized the recommendations and prepared a draft plan for implementation.

Before the Library of Congress considers the implementation of some of the recommendations in "On the Record," it is vital to understand the extent to which other libraries rely on its contributions. Toward that end, a contract has been awarded to R2 Consulting LLC of Contoocook, N.H., to research and describe the current marketplace for cataloging records in the MARC format in order to learn more about the "supply chain" of bibliographic data in U.S. and Canadian libraries. The study will examine cataloging production and practice across all library types, including cooperative activity through OCLC, the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC), the National Library of Medicine, the National Agricultural Library, library consortia and other shared catalog-

continued on page 215

21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE

Reorganization Merges Acquisitions, Cataloging

By GAIL FINEBERG

The world's largest library has redesigned the ways it receives and catalogs incoming materials in order to improve processing time dramatically and enhance the physical security of the collections. The reorganization, which involved several years of planning, allows the Library to better handle both traditional and non-traditional deposits (such as digital). It also positions the organization to respond to the recommendations of the Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control, convened by the Library to address how the popularity of the Internet, advances in search-engine technology, and the influx of electronic information resources have greatly changed the way libraries do their work. (See story on page 211.)

A book arriving at a mail room at the Library no longer takes months or even years to journey through several divisions and many hands—at risk of getting lost along the way—before finding a permanent safe haven on a shelf for the rest of its life.

As result of the latest reorganization in Library Services at the Library of Congress, a book acquired as a copyright deposit, purchase, gift or exchange will go to one division—instead of several—for centralized "processing." That term encompasses ordering, cataloging, shelflisting, barcoding and all the other activities that let the Library's users find one particular book among more than 23.3 million unique titles in printed formats (plus another 8.9 million that are duplicate copies) in the custody of the Library.

"The new organizational structure—the Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access Directorate (ABA)—fully merges acquisitions and cataloging functions, streamlines workflows and deploys staff to take advantage of their unique language and subject skills," said ABA Director Beacher Wiggins.

He noted that the new organization will be better designed and staffed to acquire new digital materials, which will be processed the same way collections in printed and other formats are.

Effective Oct. 1, the merger of acquisitions and cataloging functions ends an older industrial model of work, in which an incoming book moved slowly along an assembly line of stand-alone acquisitions and processing units. Twenty years ago, staff in Order, Exchange and Gift or Copyright Cataloging divisions acquired a book and then handed it off to highly specialized librarians in separate Descriptive Cataloging and Subject Cataloging divisions for description, subject analysis, classification, and assignment to a particular place on a shelf. Whole-book cataloging, which merged descriptive- and subject-cataloging functions in the early 1990s, began the trend toward centralized processing, which eliminates duplicative efforts and speeds up "throughput"—the time it takes to make a new book findable and to get it on the shelf.

The reorganization affected some 635 staff members:

- Approximately 600 were reassigned from 14 divisions to nine new divisions without a reduction in force or downgrade in pay.
- 14 staff members in the Cataloging Distribution Service, which sold Library of Congress cataloging products, were reassigned to the Business Enterprises Initiative.
- 20 employees who catalog music and sound recordings were reassigned from the ABA directorate to the Music Division, which is part of the Collections and Services Directorate.

The nine new divisions were established on Oct. 1, 2008, and postal addresses and integrated library-system locations for the new ABA directorate became operational on Oct. 14. By Oct. 15, staff had been placed in new position descriptions for "librarian" and "technician," each with a broad range of duties ranging from ordering to various stages of creating bibliographic records.

Cross-training of staff will take about two years. "No one will be asked to perform a job they don't know how to do," said Joe Puccio, who is head of a new ABA Acquisitions Fiscal and Support Office. Contractors will perform acquisitions, mail services and other support functions.

During the 2½ years it took to plan and design the reorganization, staff were consulted all along the way, Wiggins emphasized.

Wiggins coordinated the team effort, and Maureen Landry, chief of the new U.S. and Publisher Liaison Division, and Judith Mansfield, chief of the new U.S./Anglo Division, managed the reorganization.

Wiggins coordinated multiple planning groups consisting of supervisors and staff, and he met twice a month with representatives of AFSCME Locals 2477 and 2910. "He e-mailed minutes of every meeting to the entire staff," commented Susan Morris, special assistant to Wiggins.

"Beacher let staff reconsider their proposed placement, and he entertained changes," Puccio said. "This was a unique opportunity for staff to move to their strengths and to use their language and subject expertise."

He added that by learning new skills required by their new position descriptions, ABA staff will become more competitive in efforts to advance their careers.

Library Services concluded impact bargaining with AFSCME Local 2910 and consultations with AFSCME Local 2477 in September.

GEOGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION

The new Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access Directorate has been organized geographically, so that the 2.5 million new items selected for addition to the Library's collections each year will be acquired and processed according to the regional origin of the materials.

For example, a new German history book requested by a recommending officer in the European Division will be ordered and processed by the Germanic and Slavic Division in the new ABA Directorate. A Germanic and Slavic (G&S) Division librarian with expertise in the German language will initiate the purchase order based on the availability of budgeted funds.

Division technicians will order and receive the book and complete a preliminary bibliographic description of the book. A technician also will research bibliographic databases to determine if a catalog record already exists for the book and then copy it to eliminate redundant cataloging. A G&S librarian will then approve the invoice for payment.

If the book needs supplemental or full cataloging, the G&S librarian will complete the cataloging by determining the authorized forms of search terms, performing subject analysis, and assigning a Library of Congress Classification call number for shelf placement and for browsing in the online catalog.

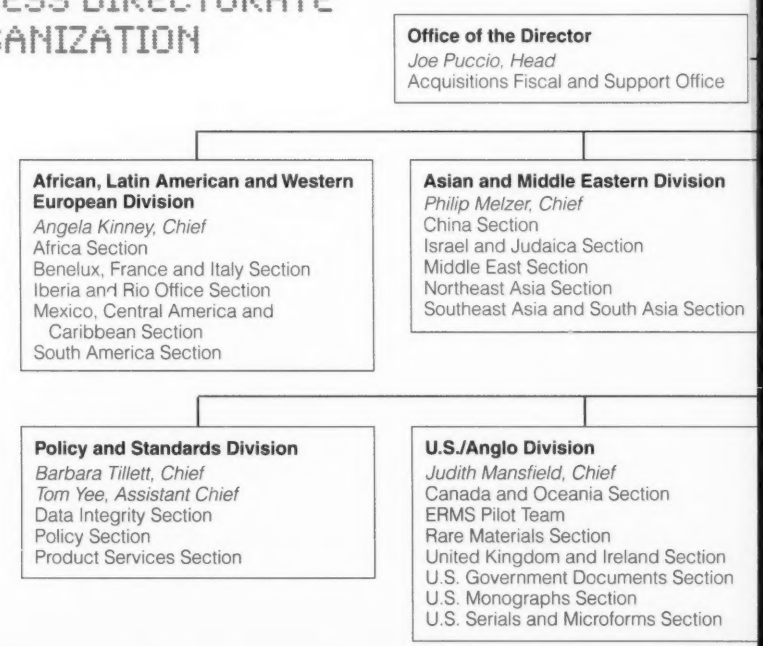
Materials acquired through purchase, exchange or gifts will flow to the African, Latin American and Western European Division; Asian and Middle Eastern Division; Germanic and Slavic Division; the Overseas Operations Division, which now processes the materials it acquires through the Library's six overseas offices; and the U.S./Anglo Division.

Primarily English-language materials that arrive without payment flow to the U.S. and Publisher Liaison Division and the U.S. General Division. These divisions acquire and process copyright deposits and copies the Library gets from publishers in exchange for providing the publisher with cataloging data in advance of publication.

ILS SUPPORTS REORGANIZATION

Beth Davis-Brown, executive secretariat in Library Services, said no new automation was required for implementation of the ABA reorganization, which mirrors the capabilities of the Integrated Library System (ILS). Upgraded since its installation in the 1990s, the ILS eliminates duplicative manual operations of the past

ACQUISITIONS AND BIBLIOGRAPHIC ACCESS DIRECTORATE ORGANIZATION



and supports the streamlined workflows envisioned with the new reorganization.

Changing business processes in Library Services to take advantage of interconnected ILS functions is consistent with the findings and recommendations of LC21: A Digital Strategy for the Library of Congress. *(See Information Bulletin, August-September 2000.)* A report published by the National Academy of Sciences in 2000, LC21 contains suggestions of an independent committee of top information scientists on what the Library should do to position itself for national leadership in a digital age at the dawn of the new millennium.

The committee found evidence of "obsolete workflows" throughout the Library workplace and warned that automation alone would not streamline workflows. "There seems to be much opportunity for workflow automation. However the approach should not be to use information technology to automate existing processes but rather to examine the processes themselves and rationalize them across unit boundaries," the committee recommended.

"The ILS will support different and more effective processing flows than were possible with the Library's old stand-alone applications," the report found, adding that reorganization and rethinking of business processes would be "even more difficult than the technical implementation of the Voyager ILS."

An outside consultant interviewed people affected by the ABA reorganization, studied all the functions of each new division and concluded in a 2007 report that the design was "sound," Morris said.

In noting her approval and support for the massive ABA transition, Deanna Marcum, associate librarian for Library Services, said: "The ABA reorganization reflects the direction that I envisioned for Library Services when I became the Associate Librarian five years ago. With this major restructuring, Library Services positions itself to be more efficient in its operations and more responsive to the needs of users." ◆

Gail Fineberg is editor of The Gazette, the Library's staff newsletter.

Bibliographic
continued from page 213

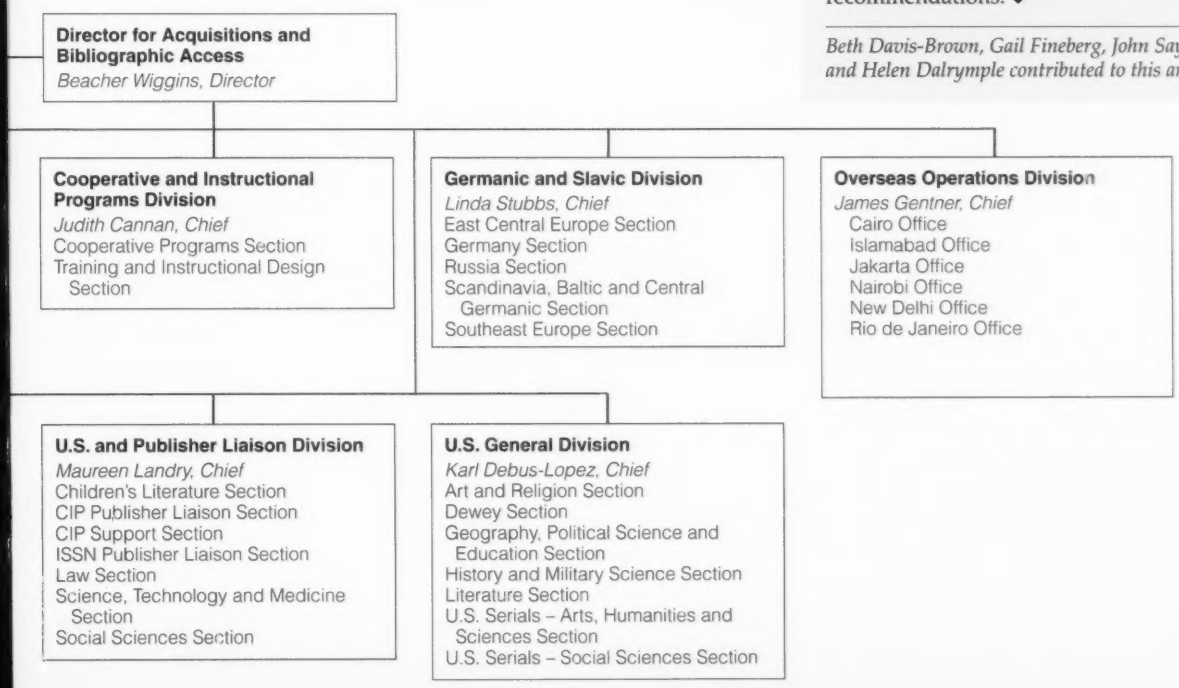
ing initiatives. It addresses the final report's recommendation to "increase the efficiency of bibliographic production and maintenance."

"On the Record" also recommended that developmental work on the proposed Resource Description and Access (RDA) be suspended. (RDA is the proposed successor to the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules). Before Marcum issued her response to the final report, a joint project was launched by the Library of Congress, the National Agricultural Library, and the National Library of Medicine to test the benefits of RDA before making a decision about implementation.

In response to the report's recommendation to "make the discovery of rare, unique, and other special hidden materials a high priority," the Library of Congress applied for and received a Council on Library and Information Resources grant for "Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives." The grant, for slightly more than $240,000, will support a Library project to catalog 125,000 sheet maps of Africa, which are not widely held by other institutions. The enhanced catalog records will permit geographic searching via the inclusion of geographic coordinates.

The Library of Congress will continue to work in consultation with other institutions to review and respond to the report's recommendations. ◆

Beth Davis-Brown, Gail Fineberg, John Sayers and Helen Dalrymple contributed to this article.



Zhan Furui, at left, general director of the National Library of China, and Librarian of Congress James Billington, center, sign an agreement to cooperate in developing the World Digital Library as Cai Wu, minister of culture for the People's Republic of China, right, looks on with John Van Oudenaren, far right, head of the WDL project for the Library of Congress.

Tony Brown/Imijphoto.com

Expanding the World

Library of Congress, National Library of China Sign Agreement

The Library of Congress and the National Library of China have concluded an agreement to cooperate in developing the World Digital Library.

Signing the cooperative agreement in a brief ceremony held Nov. 16 in the Asian Reading Room at the Library of Congress were Zhan Furui, General Director, National Library of China, and Librarian of Congress James Billington. The signing took place in the presence of the Minister of Culture for the People's Republic of China, Cai Wu, on the occasion of the meeting of the U.S. President's Committee for the Arts and Humanities.

The two libraries agreed to provide content to the World Digital Library and to cooperate in such areas as the development and maintenance of the Chinese-language interface, the convening of international working groups to plan and develop the project, and the formation of an advisory committee of leading scholars and curators to recommend important collections about the culture and history of China for inclusion in the World Digital Library.

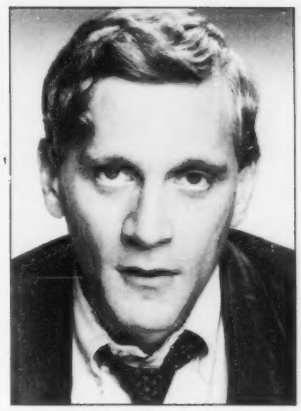
The web-based World Digital Library, slated to launch in April 2009, is an initiative of the Library of Congress and other cultural institutions around the world in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Other institutions participating in the project include major libraries from Brazil, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Russia, Serbia, and Sweden, the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, the John Carter Brown Library, and the libraries of Brown and Yale Universities. *(See Information Bulletin, September 2008.)*

The goal of the World Digital Library is to represent major world cultures in a way that contributes to better understanding among different cultures, as well as to serve the needs of scholars and researchers. The project will digitize and make available on the Internet, free of charge and in multilingual format, significant primary materials of many cultures, including manuscripts, maps, rare books, musical scores, recordings, films, prints, photographs, architectural drawings and other materials of interest both to scholars and the general public. For more information, visit **www.wdl.org.** ◆

Lyrics by Howard Ashman

Library Acquires Papers of American Lyricist

The Music Division of the Library of Congress has acquired the papers of noted stage and film lyricist Howard Ashman. Ashman is best remembered as the lyricist (collaborating with composer Alan Menken) for the stage musical "Little Shop of Horrors" and the Disney animated film musicals "The Little Mermaid," "Beauty and the Beast" and "Aladdin."



Howard Ashman

The Ashman Collection is a joint gift to the Library from his sister, Sarah Ashman Gillespie and his life partner, William Lauch. The collection is a rich representation of every aspect of Ashman's career and includes scripts and screenplays in various drafts, lyric sketches, music, notes, production materials, programs, posters, personal papers, correspondence, recordings and even some examples of Disney merchandise. After it is processed, the collection will be available to researchers and scholars in the Library's Performing Arts Reading Room.

In addition to Ashman's work as a lyricist, he was artistic director of the WPA Theater in New York from 1977 to 1982. He was also the author of the play "The Confirmation" and the director and librettist for the stage version of "Little Shop of Horrors." He went on to write the screenplay for the 1986 movie adaptation. In addition, Ashman was the director, lyricist and librettist for the musicals "God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater" (also with Menken) and "Smile" (with music by Marvin Hamlisch). Ashman was the co-recipient of two Grammy Awards, two Golden Globes and two Oscars. In 1991, he died at the age of 40 due to complications from AIDS.

Ashman's papers are the newest addition to the Library's unparalleled collections in the area of the American musical. These include the collections of George and Ira Gershwin, Richard Rodgers, Oscar Hammerstein II, Frederick Loewe, Alan Jay Lerner, Leonard Bernstein, Irving Berlin, Charles Strouse, Bob Fosse and Gwen Verdon.

In addition, the Library, in conjunction with the record company PS Classics, has released the two-CD set "Howard Sings Ashman," the latest in the Songwriter Series underwritten by the Library through the Ira and Leonore Gershwin Trust. The series, under the supervision of producer Steve Nelson, features songwriters performing their own works and includes the CDs "Jonathan Sings Larson," "Charles Sings Strouse" and "Hugh Sings Martin." They are available at music outlets and retailers nationwide. ◆

© Walt Disney Co.

© Walt Disney Co.

Playwright and lyricist Howard Ashman achieved fame (and Academy Awards) through his work on the Disney films "The Little Mermaid," top right, and "Beauty and the Beast."

Federal Guidelines

Agencies Collaborate on Digitization

By SUSAN MANUS

Saving the nation's cultural heritage is an increasingly important matter for government agencies that hold large amounts of material documenting the national record. While saving traditional printed archival materials continues to be important, the exponential growth of digitization projects has created a new set of challenges related to producing and preserving materials in digital format over the long term.

Individual government agencies are digitizing different content, yet they share many of the same technical issues and concerns. So the sharing of information and tools is an idea whose time has come. To that end, the Library of Congress is participating in a new government collaboration, the results of which can be followed on the newly released "Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative" website (**www.digitizationguidelines.gov**).

"We are hoping that by making our draft guidelines public and highlighting our priority challenges, we will encourage input from across the broader imaging community," said Michael Stelmach, manager of Digital Conversion Services for the Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI) at the Library.

Feds to Standardize Digitization

Twelve agencies have come together to develop a common set of digitization practices and guidelines and two working groups have been formed. A still-image working group will establish appropriate guidelines for the scanning of text, maps, photographic prints and negatives. An audiovisual working group will set standards for digitizing audiovisual materials—sound recordings, videos and film. They will post their recommendations on two websites: **www.digitizationguidelines.gov/stillimages/** and **www.digitizationguidelines.gov/audio-visual/**.

These guidelines, which cover such criteria as evaluating image characteristics and establishing metadata elements, will serve not only the agencies, but also digitization service providers, equipment manufacturers, and other technologists. The products of the working groups are not considered to be static, but will continue to be updated and posted to the website.

Federal Members

Although the Library has served as convener during the formative stages, no one institution is a leader in this collaborative effort. Joining the Library are the Defense Visual Information Directorate, the National Agricultural Library, the National Archives and Records Administration, the National Gallery of Art, the National Library of Medicine, the National Transportation Library, the Smithsonian Institution, the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Government Printing Office and the Voice of America.

"All the government agencies are in a similar situation; there are certain types of materials that you know exactly what to do with," said Steve Puglia, preservation and imaging specialist for the National Archives. "In the still-imaging area, there are certain baseline approaches that already work well. One challenge we are currently facing is to create good procedures for quality assurance and quality control. Fixing things upfront in the process is really important, and will result in the best-quality final product."

By combining forces, participating agencies expect to save time and resources. James Mauldin, manager of the Office of Archival Management at the Government Printing Office, acknowledges the benefits of this effort for his agency. In addition to the document specifications already used by the GPO, Mauldin says that "working collaboratively with other agencies will provide greater coverage of all types of documents, such as maps, medical diagrams, and posters."

The audiovisual working group will draft comprehensive guidelines for the digital reformatting of sound recordings, building on a number of efforts carried out by federal agencies and others in recent years.

"We want to follow up on some university projects that looked at how best to handle multi-segment and multi-track audio content," said Carl Fleischhauer, an OSI program officer who is coordinating this part of the initiative. "We are also joining the still-image group in an examination of the metadata that should be embedded in files."

In contrast to audio, the practices for the digital-file-based preservation reformatting of video recordings and motion picture film are far less developed, particularly among federal agencies. Therefore, the working group's first steps in this area will be modest. For insights into these formats, the group will look to two existing partnership projects: the Preserving Digital Public Television project being carried out by the PBS television stations WNET and WGBH in association with New York University (**www.digitalpreservation.gov/partners/pdpt/pdpt.html**); and the Digital Motion Picture Archival Project being carried out by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Hollywood.

Other Web Resources

In addition to the guidelines, other resources are available on the website. One of these is a glossary of digitization-related terms—a wide-ranging list of more than 200 terms and definitions, from common terminology, such as megapixel, to the more arcane, such as scotopic sensitivity. In addition, more than 500 other terms have been identified for future updates, so look for the list to grow into a comprehensive one-stop glossary for digitization.

The site also provides a link to a compendium of information about "Sustainable Formats" (**www.digitalpreservation.gov/formats/**), containing information on more than 200 current and emerging digital formats described in great detail.

The "News and Events" section of the site features recent news pertaining to digitization and currently includes a request for proposal (RFP) from the Government Printing Office, as well as news of a collaborative project between the Library of Congress and Xerox Corporation.

A number of specialized resources can be found under both still-image and audiovisual sections. Each group has provided bibliographies, which are essentially lists of recent guidelines used by institutions in the United States and around the world. These provide a wealth of information about existing practices, and will be updated periodically.

One of the major goals of this project is to gather continuous feedback, and links for comments appear throughout the site. By encouraging interaction with the public, manufacturers, libraries, other agencies and organizations, it is hoped that these materials will grow even more robust over time.

"The more open the process, the more feedback we can get from all communities, then the better off we are going to be," said Puglia. ◆

Susan Manus is a digital project coordinator in the Library's Office of Strategic Initiatives.

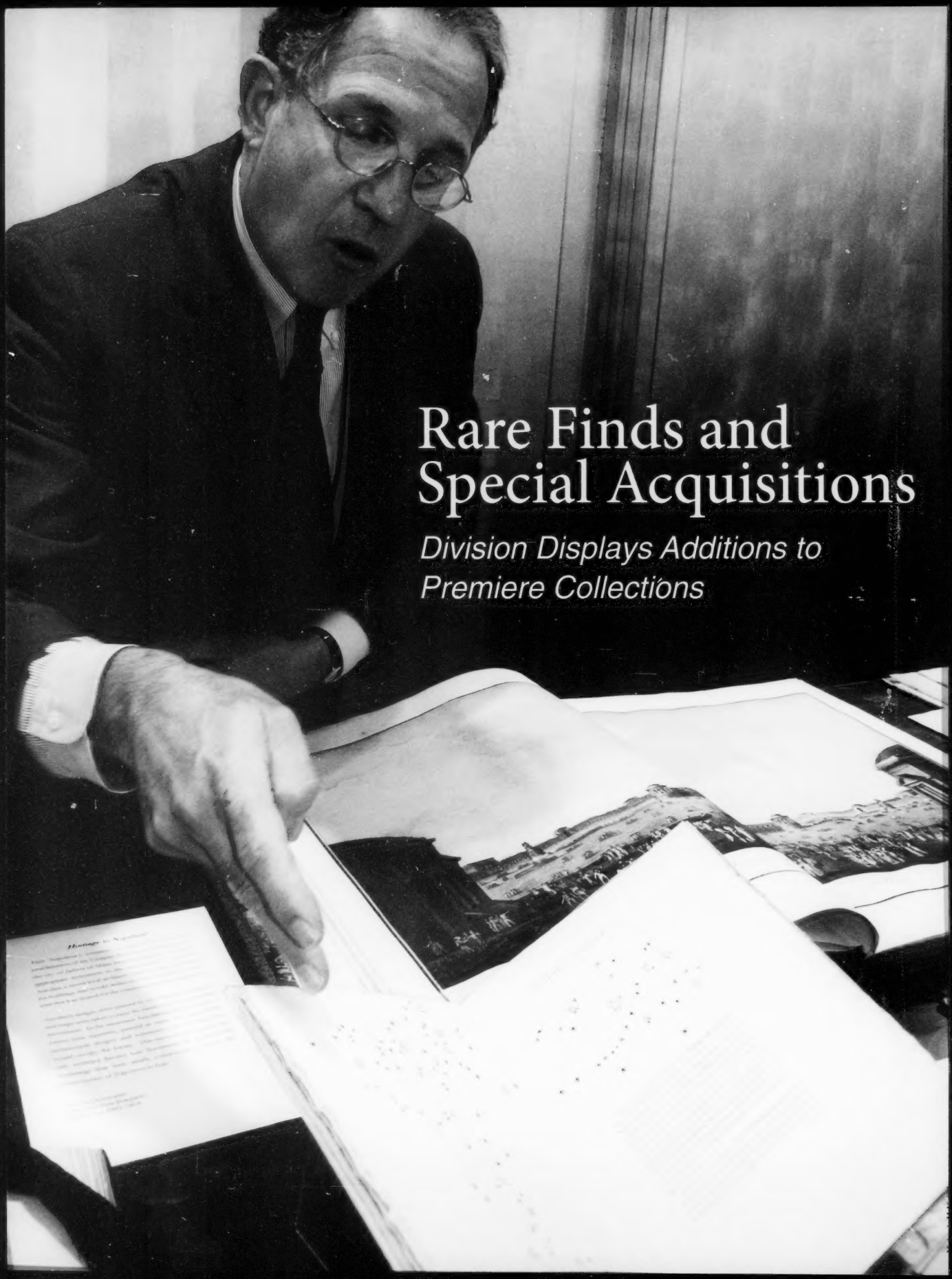
Educators Selected For National Curriculum Review Panel

The Library of Congress has assembled a group of teachers and experts from all areas of the country and grade levels in an effort to develop a new professional-development curriculum for K-12 educators. The Library's Educational Outreach division convened the first meeting of this national review committee in October in Washington, D.C.

The panel includes Diane Allen of Southeastern Louisiana University, MaryAlice Anderson of the Winona (Minn.) Area Public Schools, Jim Barstow of the Lincoln (Neb.) Public Schools, Shelia Felber of Rohr Elementary School (Chula Vista, Calif.), Megan Fix of the School District of Philadelphia, Marcia Foster of PBS, Jerry Hostetler of Southern Illinois University, Melissa Johnston of the Forsyth County Schools (Atlanta, Ga.), Kathy Lehman of Thomas Dale High School (Chester, Va.), David Miller of the Ketchikan (Alaska) School District, Janice Newsum of the Houston (Texas) Independent School District, Kelly Schrum of George Mason University, Carol Stapp of George Washington University and Karyn Wright of the Clark County (Nev.) Schools.

The professional-development curriculum will be a primary-source-based program that will be delivered at the Library of Congress, in the community through its partners and online at the Library's website. Participants in the program will become familiar with the breadth and organization of the Library's digital primary sources, understand the value of using primary sources in instruction and create basic inquiry-based learning experiences. The curriculum will be designed to meet standards set by the National Staff Development Council, the American Association of School Librarians and the International Society of Technology in Education.

The national review panel members were selected for their expertise and knowledge, as well as in an effort to assemble representatives from urban, suburban and rural areas and elementary, middle-school and high-school teaching specialties. The Library will formally release the professional development curriculum and online modules at the 2009 National Education Computing Conference in Washington, D.C., in June. ◆



Rare Finds and Special Acquisitions

Division Displays Additions to Premiere Collections

By ERIN ALLEN

"The Milky Way is nothing else but a mass of innumerable stars planted together in clusters," observed Galileo Galilei after turning his telescope on our galaxy early in the 17th century. He found this band of white light across the night sky consisted of many stars, each of them too distant to be seen by the naked eye.

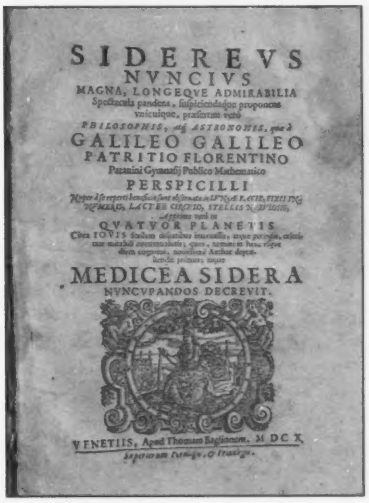
His book, "Siderius Nuncius" (1610) or "The Starry Messenger," was the first scientific treatise based on observations through a telescope. Not only did he record his study of the Milky Way, but he also reported on his examination of the moon and his sighting of four objects orbiting around Jupiter.

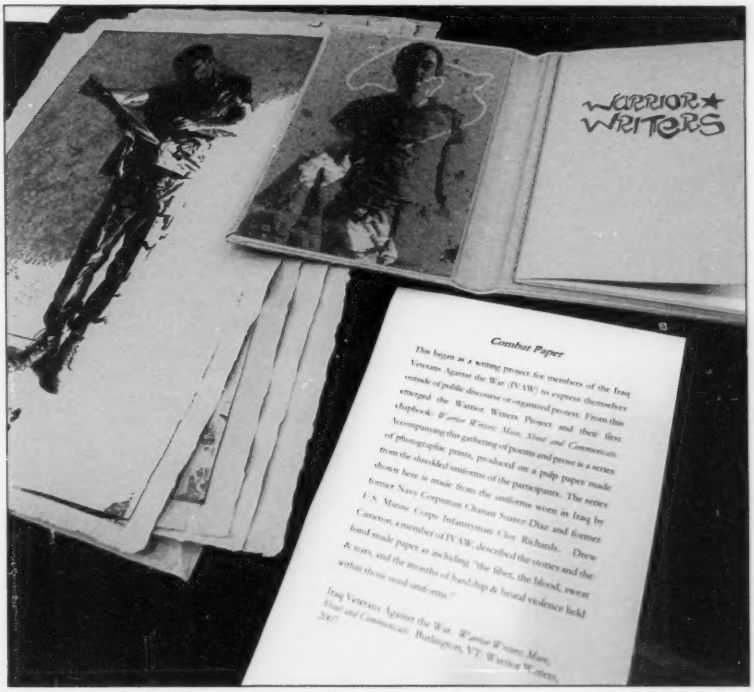
As a repository for such monumental research, the Library of Congress can now boast its acquisition of the first edition of this seminal work. Newly acquired by the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, the stellar treasure was on display with some 75 new additions to the division's collections during an open house on Oct. 22.

"This is the largest copy that exists," said Dan De Simone of the celestial study. The significance, he said, is that Galileo's renderings in this edition are intact. Other copies, for example those held by Harvard University, are incomplete because the Italian astronomer's illustrations were trimmed away in the process of rebinding the books.

"The binding from our edition is probably from the time the book was printed, so that's why it is preserved," added De Simone.

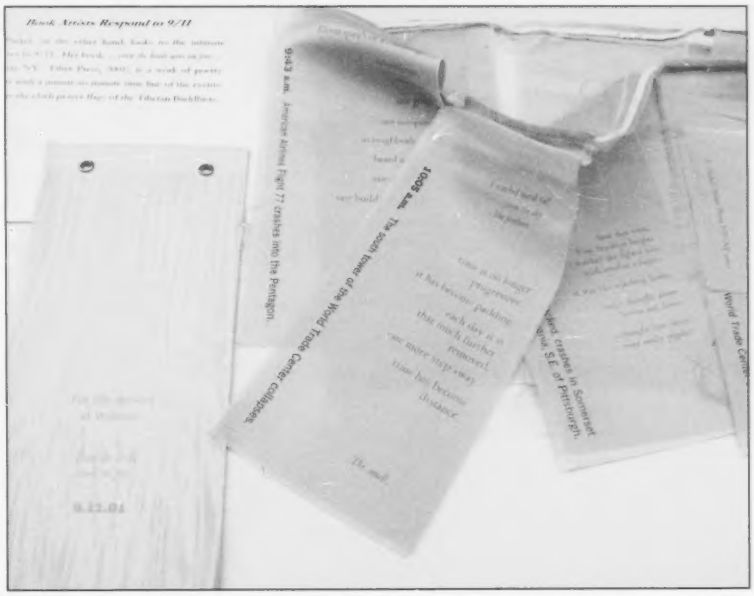
Walking among the items on display during the division open house


SIDEREVS
NVNCIVS
MAGNA, LONGEQVE ADMIRABILIA
Spectacula pandens, suspiciendaque proponens
vnicuique, præsertim vero
PHILOSOPHIS, atq; ASTRONOMIS, quæ
GALILEO GALILEO
PATRITIO FLORENTINO
Patauini Gymnasij Publico Mathematico
PERSPICILLI
QVATVOR PLANETIS
MEDICEA SIDERA
NVNCVPANDOS DECREVIT.
VENETIIS, Apud Thomam Baglionum. M DC X



All photos by Michaela McNichol

Iraq war protests take shape in "Combat Paper."


Black Artists Respond to 9/11
9:43 a.m. American Airlines Flight 77 crashes into the Pentagon.
10:05 a.m. The south tower of the World Trade Center collapses.

Above, remembrances of 9/11 are recorded in Sara Parkel's "... even the birds were on fire ... For the victims of violence." At left, the cover page of "Siderius Nuncius" or "The Starry Messenger," by Galileo, was the first scientific work to showcase observations through a telescope.

Opposite, the Rare Book and Special Collection Division curator Dan De Simone shows Galileo's renderings of the Milky Way in the "Siderius Nuncius" volume.

At right, Michael Kuch's "Falling to Earth" explores the 9/11 attacks through poetry and art.

in the Rosenwald Room was to journey through times of theological revolution, political evolution, childhood whimsy and national tragedy. Each table displayed a cross-sampling of gifts as well as items purchased by the division during the past two years.

In keeping with the Library's mission to document all aspects of the events on Sept. 11, 2001, the division has built a collection of books by noted artists who confront and lay bare their feelings in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks. Examples were on display.

"'Falling to Earth' by Michael Kuch is probably the darkest book," said Mark Dimunation, chief of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. "His studio looked out on the World Trade Center. His poetry and drawings reflect the images of people flying and reference the imagery of Jacob's Ladder, Icarus, a parachuting Christ. It's extremely moving."

Another item, titled "Combat Paper," began as a writing project for members of the Iraq Veterans Against the War to express themselves in ways other than public action. The project morphed into the Warrior Writers Project and its first chapbook, "Warrior Writers: Move, Shoot and Communicate."

"The artwork accompanying their writing was produced on paper made from the cut-up uniforms of servicemen and women," said Dimunation. "It was definitely a protest mechanism."

Next to these art books that begged consideration for their in-your-face visuals was a colorful arrangement of red, green and blue cloth bindings embossed with gold and silver leaf. Margaret Neilson Armstrong, a preeminent designer of decorated cloth publishers' bindings from 1890 to 1913, created the bindings for this collection of American classics: 274 works by the Brownings, Washington Irving, Henry Thoreau, John Greenleaf Whittier and others, which the Library purchased in 2008.

"This is a spectacular collection in pristine condition," emphasized Dimunation.

Recent acquisitions also marked efforts of the division to complete some of its collections. According to Brian Taves, author of the Jules Verne Encyclopedia, "The Library of Congress holds the most comprehensive Verne Collection of any institution outside the writ-

Above, Sybille Jaqusch, head of the Children's Literature Center, shows the Librarian new additions to the collection.

At right, Rosemary Plakas displays the decorated cloth publishers' bindings designed by Margaret Neilson Armstrong.

er's native land." The division rounded out this particular collection with various editions and states of Verne's publications, many of which are scarce or unusual in some degree. For example, an 1873 copy of "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea" is the first true American edition and is one of only two known copies in salmon-colored cloth.

With a single purchase last year, the Library completed its collection of the work of Vincent Fitzgerald and Company, known for its fine printing of works by James Joyce, Franz Kafka and Jalaluddin Mohammad Rumi.

"What we have here are pieces of culture and human experience," concluded Dimunation. "They range from telling the stories of ordinary people in extraordinary times all the way up to single books that fundamentally changed the world." ◆

Erin Allen is a writer-editor in the Library's Public Affairs Office.

The Chosen in Persia

Library Sponsors Day-Long Study of Iranian Jewry

A display of Library resources related to Iranian Jewry and talks on the same topic, as well as scholarly presentations on the history and culture of Jews in Iran, highlighted day-long presentations at the Library of Congress on Nov. 3.

The Hebraic and Near East Sections of the African and Middle Eastern Division of the Library sponsored the second day of a two-day conference, "Iranian Jewry: From Past to Present."

The conference began on Sunday, Nov. 2, at the University of Maryland. The university's Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies and the Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute Center for Persian Studies presented three sessions that concentrated on history: "Jews and Persians in Ancient Iran," "Jewish-Persian Relations in the Nineteenth Century" and "Iran and Israel in the World Today." A webcast of that program is available at **www.ricps.umd.edu/jewryvideo.html**.

The university's program concluded with an evening performance of Izra Malakov's "Bukharian Jewish Folklore Ensemble."

The Library's Hebraic and Near East Sections hosted the Nov. 3 session, which may be viewed at **www.loc.gov/webcasts/**.

Carolyn Brown, director of the Office of Scholarly Programs in the John W. Kluge Center, greeted more than 100 people attending the Nov. 3 session at the Library of Congress. She said the scholarly presentations would "illuminate the deeply intertwined history of Jews and Iranians."

Ibrahim Pourhadi, the Iranian world area specialist in the Near East Section, spoke briefly about the Persian-language collections that he was instrumental in developing from the time he began to work at the Library more than 55 years ago.

The display of resources related to the seminar topic included books, journals, films, oral histories, maps, and a photographic album from the Library's collections in custody of the African and Middle Eastern Division, Humanities and Social Sciences Division (General Collections), Prints and Photographs Division, Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division and the Geography and Map Division.

Peggy Pearlstein, head of the Hebraic Section, and Hirad Dinavari, reference librarian for the Iranian world, discussed resources in Judeo-Persian and Farsi in the custody of

continued on page 225

This 1872 photo shows a Jewish wedding proposal ritual in Central Asia, with the groom second from the left. ***Prints and Photographs Division***

Lee Avdoyan

In the foreground is a contemporary Pentateuch in Hebrew and Persian translation, and in the rear, Sefer Sharh Shahin Torah, the Pentateuch in Persian poetry by the 14th century Jewish poet, Shahin. Also on display is Padyavand, a collection of articles on Iranian Jewish history, other works on Iranian Jewish history, audio oral histories and films on Iranian Jews. ***African and Middle Eastern Division***

Joe Shymanski

Acting Law Librarian Charles Doyle; former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor; Charles Camp, president of the Friends of the Law Library of Congress; and Librarian of Congress James Billington gather at Washington's historic Willard Hotel to honor O'Connor.

Day of Recognition

Retired Justice Honored with Wickersham Award

By LEON SCIOSCIA

For "exceptional public service and dedication to the legal profession," the Friends of the Law Library of Congress presented the 2008 Wickersham Award to retired Associate Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. The award was presented at a gala dinner held Oct. 30 at the historic Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C.

"The work that Justice O'Connor has accomplished, prior to taking the seat on the Supreme Court, helped pave the way for the enduring heritage that she left behind upon retirement," said Librarian of Congress James H. Billington. "This award, this official recognition, provides yet another lasting reminder for us all of her continued impact, of her sustained inspiration, of her immeasurable knowledge and of her lasting wisdom that will forever be catalogued for future generations."

John Terzano, president and co-founder of The Justice Project and chair of the honorary event, echoed Billington's sentiments.

"Since retiring, Justice O'Connor has worked tirelessly for two principles and ideas that are dear to her heart, the first being an independent judiciary and the second being educating our children," said Terzano. "She established the Sandra Day O'Connor Project on the State of the Judiciary at the Georgetown Law Center, which has held notable national conferences discussing the need for an independent judiciary as well as dealing with topics such as 'Our

Sandra Day O'Connor was born in El Paso, Texas. She received her undergraduate and law degrees from Stanford University and subsequently served as deputy county attorney of San Mateo County, Calif. While her husband, John, was in the service overseas, she served as a civilian attorney for Quartermaster Market Center in Frankfurt, Germany. When they returned to the United States, the couple settled in Phoeniz, Ariz., and had three sons in six years.

O'Connor continued to practice law before serving as the state of Arizona's assistant attorney general. She was appointed to the Arizona State Senate and was subsequently re-elected to two consecutive two-year terms. She served, upon election, as judge of the Maricopa County Superior Court until her appointment to the Arizona Court of Appeals. In 1981, President Ronald Reagan nominated her for the Supreme Court. Following unanimous Senate confirmation, she became the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court. She served as Associate Justice until her retirement from the bench on Jan. 31, 2006.

In 1984, O'Connor authored the decision in *Strickland v. Washington* (466 U.S 668) in which the court ruled that "an accused is entitled to be assisted by an attorney, whether retained or appointed, who plays the role necessary to ensure that the trial is fair." During a recent conference sponsored jointly by the Law Library of Congress and the Constitution Project, O'Connor revisited this groundbreaking decision. *(See Information Bulletin, January-February 2008.)*

In addition to the Wickersham award, O'Connor has received the Liberty Medal from the National Constitution Center, the Sylvanus Thayer Award from the United States Military Academy and the Harry F. Byrd, Jr., Public Service Award from the Virginia Military Institute. She holds an honorary doctoral degree from Yale University and an honorary doctor of laws degree from Elon University School of Law. Arizona State University honored O'Connor by naming its law school after her. In October 2008, she was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame.

In 1991, Justice O'Connor began the process of donating her papers to the Library of Congress for use by scholars in the future. The collection joins those of Supreme Court Justices Thurgood Marshall, Harry A. Blackmun and Felix Frankfurter, among others.

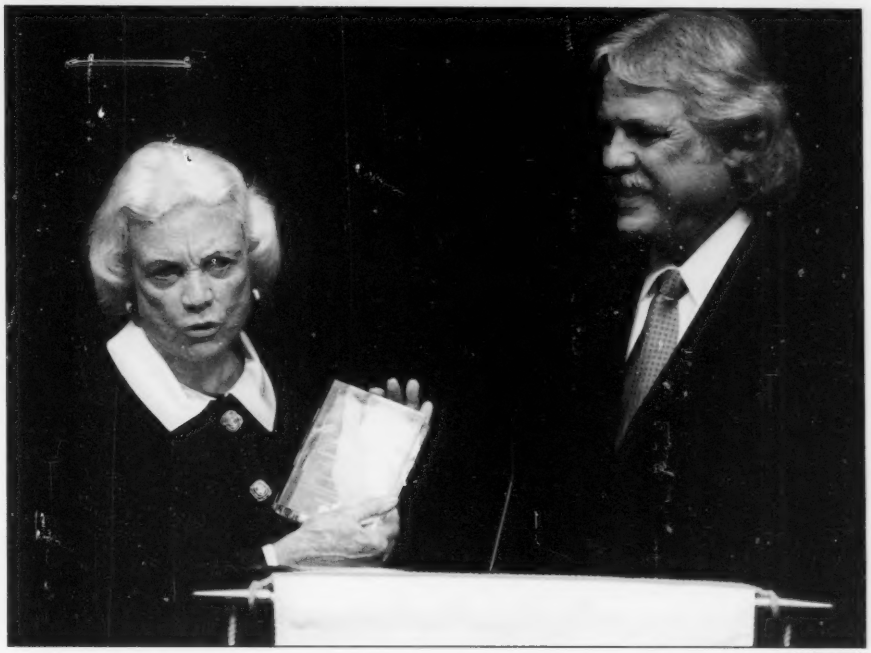
In 2002, O'Connor penned her autobiography, "Lazy B: Growing Up on a Cattle Ranch in the American Southwest." She has also written several children's books about her childhood experiences. ◆

Courts and Corporate Citizenship.' She also founded the 'Our Courts' project as a way to achieve her goal of educating our youth on how government works."

Terzano revealed the less-known fact that O'Connor has even designed online computer games "as a way to teach good old-fashioned civics."

"The crystal book is beautiful and is going to receive a prominent location in my chambers," said O'Connor upon accepting the inscribed award from Terzano.

Visibly moved, O'Connor singled out several colleagues and friends in the audiences and talked about life-long acquaintances.



Joe Shymanski

John Terzano, president and co-founder of The Justice Project, presents the 2008 Wickersham Award to Justice O'Connor.

Founded in 1832, the Law Library of Congress is the largest and most comprehensive source of legal information in the world and a research center for foreign, international and comparative law. A century later, the national, nonprofit Friends of the Law Library was established to encourage the preservation and growth of the Law Library.

The Wickersham Award honors George Wickersham (1858-1936), founder of the Friends of the Law Library. His distinguished law career included service as president of the New York City Bar (1914-1917), participation in the Versailles Peace Conference (1919), the founding presidency of the American Law Institute (1923-1926), and a presidential appointment to President Hoover's National Commission on Law Observance and Enforcement (1929).

Previous recipients of the Wickersham Award include former Secretary of State James A. Baker III; former Senator George Mitchell (D-Maine); former White House counsel Lloyd Cutler; and Patricia Wald, former chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. ◆

Leon Scioscia is special assistant to the Law Librarian of Congress.

Persia

continued from page 223

the Hebraic and Near East Sections as well as resources in other languages and formats throughout the Library. Pearlstein noted that the Library's early Judeo-Persian collection began in 1912 with the first gift of books from philanthropist Jacob H. Schiff and the founding of the Hebraic Section.

Dinavari showed romanization tables and demonstrated a variety of searching strategies to locate items using the online catalog. Professor Maria Subtelny commented afterwards that the demonstration "was quite helpful for scholars." The session closed with a progress report by Professor Vera Moreen, who is serving as section editor of "Persia/Iran" for the forthcoming Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World, itself a testament to scholarly interest in Iranian Jews.

Professor Parvaneh Pourshariati, Ohio State University, began the Library session with "Jews in Medieval Persian Cultures," an overview of Jewish settlement in Persian lands and in particular Jewish participation in overland trade in Iran in late antiquity (roughly 100 B.C. to A.D. 750). Professor Maria Subtelny, University of Toronto, looked at an Islamic ascension narrative in medieval Iran as a venue for conversion of Jews. Professor Moreen, an independent scholar, focused on colophons of Judeo-Persian texts that were written in Hebrew letters. She said the existence of more than 1,200 manuscripts in Western library collections "attests to the literacy of Jews in Persia, and sheds light on the intellectual and material culture of Persian Jews."

Judith Goldstein, Shalom Sabar and Evan Rapport discussed Jewish material culture and folk art. Rapport examined the differences in status between musicians in Iran and Central Asia, noting the broad appeal of Bukharian Jewish music to non-Jewish audiences in Central Asia. This presenter also focused on the revival of Bukharian Jewish music in the American diaspora after it had almost disappeared in its homeland.

In the final Library session, Orly Rahimiyan looked at the image of Jews in Iranian cinema, and Dalia Yasharpour discussed the Haggadah of the Jews of Kaifeng, China, and its connections to a Haggadah used by the Jews of Iran. ◆

Achebe's Impact

Author Gave Africa its 'First Authentic Voice'

By DONNA URSCHEL

Distinguished scholars gathered at the Library recently to discuss the impact and significance of one of the most important books in African literature, "Things Fall Apart."

The day-long symposium on Nov. 3 celebrated the 50th anniversary of the novel by Nigerian author Chinua Achebe, which he wrote in 1958 when he was 28 years old. It is one of the first African books written in English to receive worldwide acclaim, and is considered to be the book that launched the modern canon of African literature.

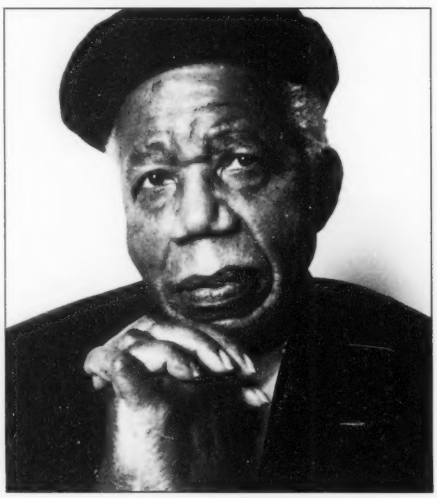
"Things Fall Apart" tells the story of Okonkwo, a leader in an Igbo village in Nigeria in the 1890s, as he deals with his own personal struggles as well as the impact of British colonialism. The book describes the rich culture and complexities of Igbo society, articulating an insider's sense of the African experience.

"'Things Fall Apart' is the greatest work of literature to come out of Africa," said Nigerian Deputy Ambassador Baba Gana Wakil, in his opening remarks at the symposium. "The fact that this literary work remains fresh and exciting and generates interest 50 years later is a great tribute to Achebe."

The book has sold more than 8 million copies and has been translated into 50 languages. It is a widely read and studied book in schools around the world. The Library's African and Middle Eastern Division sponsored the symposium titled "Fifty Years of Chinua Achebe's Celebrated Novel 'Things Fall Apart.'" The program consisted of opening remarks by several experts; readings from the novel by students from The School Without Walls in Washington, D.C.; two 90-minute panels; and a keynote address by distinguished writer and academic Ali Mazrui.

The scholars discussed the book's effect on a wide range of topics, including literature, anthropology and history.

According to R. Victoria Arana, a professor of English at Howard University, "Things Fall Apart" was a transformational novel. "It had a profound re-ordering of the imaginative consciousness for people in Africa," she said. "The book was a part of the re-storying of people who had been knocked silent."



Author Chinua Achebe

The book's penetrating account of tribal life from the inside ignited a generation of copycat village novels, evoking traditional cultural values and folk wisdom. The current, third generation of African writers, however, has abandoned the rural settings for urban environments. Nonetheless, the growth and popularity of the African novel continues today.

Ama Ata Aidoo, a visiting professor in the African Studies Department of Brown University, described how she had grown up studying "English literature and not literature in English," mostly Chaucer, Spencer, Shakespeare, Keats and, if lucky, T.S. Eliot and John Osborne.

"You can imagine what a revelation and inspiration "Things Fall Apart" was for me," said Aidoo. "I became aware not only of other literatures, but that I, too, could write it."

Mbye B. Cham, chairman of the Department of African Studies at Howard University, examined Achebe's use of English and his relationship to language. "Language in post-colonial Africa is a hot potato," Cham said.

"Africa is either cursed or blessed in languages," said Cham. "There are 1,000 languages and dialects in Africa, and all these languages co-exist side by side. The absence of one common language is a major factor of disunity and conflict. It's a burden that weighs down national, regional and continental integration."

Although many African writers feel that African literature should be written in an African language, Achebe contends otherwise. According to Cham, Achebe thinks English is a viable tool and writers must consider the expediency and competence of the language. Cham quoted

Lili Iravani

From left, Library staff members Eve Ferguson, Mary-Jane Deeb, Marieta Harper, Charles Stanhope, Abdulahi Ahmed and Angel Batiste (seated) join in honoring Chinua Achebe, center.

Achebe as once saying, "I have been given this language that is English and I intend to use it."

Simon Gikandi, professor of English at Princeton University, said Achebe's use of the English language in "Things Fall Apart" is unique. The author introduces words from the Igbo language and uses Nigerian proverbs, metaphors and speech rhythms.

"The English is vernacularized," said Gikandi. "We think we are hearing him speaking in Igbo."

The novel also had an impact on anthropology, according to Gwendolyn Mikell, professor of anthropology and foreign service at Georgetown University. "'Things Fall Apart'" is a dramatic and startling story of Africa in crisis," she said. The novel got anthropologists thinking on how best to capture the data that described African societies. Interviewing techniques were added and information-gathering became more creative, resulting in more qualitative and holistic data.

African historians were affected by the novel too. Jeanne M. Toungara, a professor of history at Howard University, explained, "In the '60s (after the book came out), African scholars began to repossess and take sovereignty over their own history."

It became apparent that Europeans who had a jump on writing African history had been misinformed about African people and cultures. "Achebe's work initiated an entire generation of scholars who fought to understand the complexities of African societies," Toungara said.

The novel led scholars to the process of "deconstructing and analyzing the dynamics of African history." Toungara said, "We set out to seek trends in the past and categorize and explain events in a way that made sense."

Despite the novel's critical acclaim and global recognition, the book was ignored by Random House when it developed a list in 1998 of "100 Best Novels." According to Ali Mazrui, the symposium's keynote speaker, the Random House list was far too "Anglo-Saxony." Not one African author made the list.

That prompted Mazrui to take action. He advised African publishers to create their own list of 100 great African books of the last 100 years. "They took the idea seriously and before long the whole operation was underway," said Mazrui, who is the Albert Schweitzer Professor in Humanities and director of the Institute of Global Cultural Studies at the State University of New York at Binghamton. He is also a professor-at-large at the University of Jos in Nigeria. "Africa's 100 Best Books" list was released in 2002.

Other panelists at the symposium included Philip Uko Eflong, professor of English at the University of Maryland, and Eleanor Traylor, chairwoman of the Department of English at Howard University. Moderators included Renée Poussaint, a former award-winning network journalist and president of Poussaint Communications, and LaNisa S. Kitchinier, associate director for programs at the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center at Howard University.

"I know we've been making extravagant claims about the book," said Simon Gikandi, professor of English from Princeton. "But 'Things Fall Apart' was an awakening. It created new parameters of thinking about African literature." ◆

Donna Urschel is a public affairs specialist in the Library's Public Affairs Office.

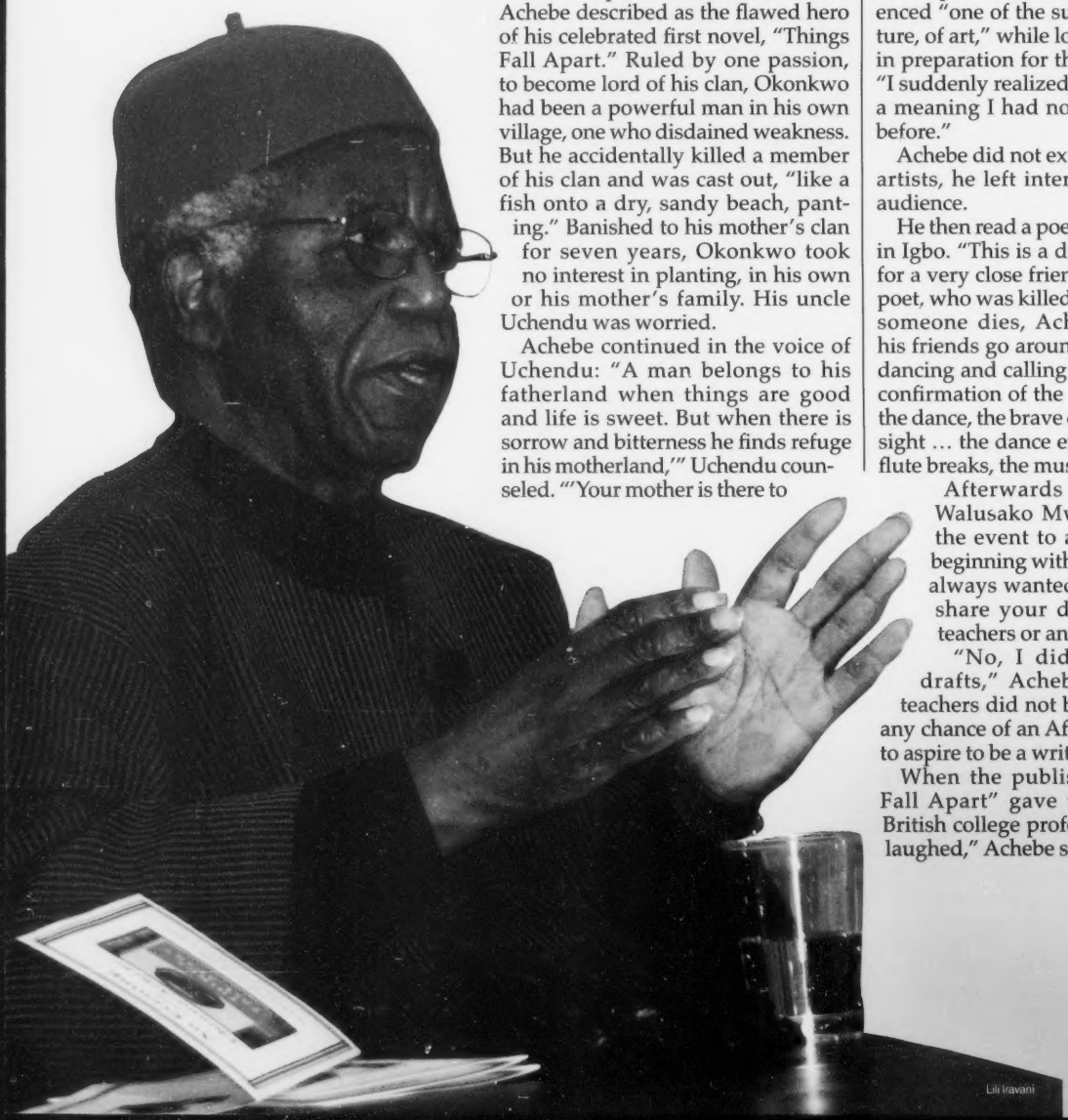
Achebe's Best

Author Reads His Favorite Passage to Library Audience

By GAIL FINEBERG

When Chinua Achebe read the passage he had selected for his 78th-birthday celebration at the Library, at the end of a long day of scholarly dissection of his work and life, it was as if the voice of the wise old man in the book were his own.

"'...I want all of you to note what I am going to say. I am an old man and you are all children. I know more about the world than any of you. If there is any one among you who thinks he knows more let him speak up. He paused, but no one spoke.'"



Lili Iravani

Achebe, sitting erect behind a low table, wearing a dark gray tunic and a bright red hat, paused in his reading and glanced at the people gathered around him in the packed Montpelier Room. Silent, attentive, almost reverent in their respect for this elder from whom they had learned something of mother Africa while reading or teaching his works in high schools and colleges, they listened to his, the first literary voice of Africa.

Achebe had just read the words of Uchendu, who has gathered his family to witness his attempt to comfort his nephew, Okonkwo, whom Achebe described as the flawed hero of his celebrated first novel, "Things Fall Apart." Ruled by one passion, to become lord of his clan, Okonkwo had been a powerful man in his own village, one who disdained weakness. But he accidentally killed a member of his clan and was cast out, "like a fish onto a dry, sandy beach, panting." Banished to his mother's clan for seven years, Okonkwo took no interest in planting, in his own or his mother's family. His uncle Uchendu was worried.

Achebe continued in the voice of Uchendu: "A man belongs to his fatherland when things are good and life is sweet. But when there is sorrow and bitterness he finds refuge in his motherland,'" Uchendu counseled. "'Your mother is there to protect you. She is buried there. ...Is it right that you, Okonkwo, should bring to your mother a heavy face and refuse to be comforted?...

"'You think you are the greatest sufferer in the world? Do you know that men are sometimes banished for life? Do you know that men sometimes lose all their yams and even their children? ... I have nothing more to say to you.'"

"This passage is one of my favorite passages in the book," Achebe said. Even though the novel "had been around for awhile"—50 years since it was published in 1958—he experienced "one of the surprises of literature, of art," while looking through it in preparation for the Library event: "I suddenly realized this passage has a meaning I had not thought about before."

Achebe did not explain. Like many artists, he left interpretation to his audience.

He then read a poem in English and in Igbo. "This is a dirge. I wrote this for a very close friend of mine, a fine poet, who was killed in a war." When someone dies, Achebe explained, his friends go around town, singing, dancing and calling for him, seeking confirmation of the rumor: "Witness the dance, the brave one is nowhere in sight ... the dance ends abruptly, the flute breaks, the music shatters. ..."

Afterwards Library staffer Walusako Mwalilino opened the event to a few questions, beginning with his own: "I have always wanted to ask: did you share your drafts with your teachers or anyone?"

"No, I did not share my drafts," Achebe replied. "My teachers did not believe there was any chance of an African young man to aspire to be a writer."

When the publisher of "Things Fall Apart" gave the news to his British college professors, "they just laughed," Achebe said.

continued on page 229

Pride, Preservation, Progress

Native Rights Advocate Speaks on Cultural Heritage

By AUDREY FISCHER

For Native rights activist Susan Shown Harjo, advocacy is about pride, preservation and progress—pride in and preservation of a rich cultural heritage in the face of all obstacles, and progress made, and still to be made, in achieving full equality under the law.

Harjo discussed these themes in her Nov. 13 keynote address for the Library's 2008 celebration of Native American Heritage Month.

Harjo acknowledged the Library's efforts to preserve the ancient languages of Native Americans. She cited the Library's 1970 acquisition of 19th-century wax cylinder field recordings of the music, songs and stories of the Passamaquoddy tribe of Maine.

"It's an amazing gift," said Harjo. "People can hear the sound of a language they had never heard in their lives and songs that had gone out of society," said added.

She spoke about the practice of sending Native children to Indian boarding schools where they were forced to learn English. She recalled that her father was beaten for speaking his native Muscokee language in the Chilocc Indian School. Ironically, he became a linguist, fluent in 11 languages, with a tendency to stutter in English. Harjo attributes this to the duress under which he learned that particular language. His gift for languages was put to use during World War II, when he served as a cryptographer for the U.S. Army. Like other Native American servicemen, he was a "code talker," transmitting messages over military communication devices using codes built upon native languages.

"The codes saved many a life, including his," said Harjo.

To underscore the fact that Native Americans proudly fought and died for this country, Harjo cited Ernest Childers, a Muscogee (Creek) Indian from Broken Arrow, Okla., who received the Medal of Honor for his service in World War II. He was a member of the Army's 45th Infantry in Italy, the battalion that liberated Dachau, the Nazi death camp.

"They took the first pictures of the men in striped pajamas," said Harjo, referring to the clothing forced on the occupants of the Nazi concentration camps.

Harjo's great-great-uncle Lean Bear was a casualty of the Civil War. While many Native Americans did fight in what they called "the war between brothers," some agreed to Abraham Lincoln's personal request that they remain neutral. (By doing so, tribes in the southern plains helped the Union cause). Harjo's forebear was among those who agreed to remain neutral. Nonetheless, he was killed despite carrying a letter of safe passage from President Lincoln.

To preserve this proud legacy and to document a 500-year struggle against racism, the National Museum of the American Indian opened in New York in 1994 and in Washington, D.C., in 2004, both under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution, with Harjo as a founding trustee and guest curator.

In addition to the opening of the museums, Harjo cited passage of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act in 1978 and the Repatriation Laws in 1990 as signs of progress. She also noted the presidential election of Barack Obama as "great reason for hope and optimism." But she does not believe, as many political pundits have posited, that we have become a "post-racial" society.

"It is absurd to think that the election of one African American male makes this a post-racial or post-native society," she said. As an example of a continued struggle, she cited the battle over the return of Native Americans' sacred places.

"We are the only people in America not permitted to use the First Amendment to protect our sacred places, even when they are next to Christian churches on public land," she said.

"As we live from day to day, things get better. But we must beware of the pull and tug to return us to the past, or to throw cold water on the warmth of hope. We must recognize it and not let it stop us from making progress."

As inspiration, she cited an Iroquois directive: "Pick a path, follow it, do not look left or right. And do not listen to the voices of distraction." ◆

Achebe

continued from page 228

One time he submitted a short story upon an English department invitation to the students. It was returned with these comments: "Not too bad." "Lacked form."

"What is this form thing? Can you tell me what to do?" he asked a teacher. She promised to read his paper, but the term passed before she finally said: "I looked at your story again. There is nothing wrong with it."

"It was very clear to me nobody here was going to tell me how to write a story. So I worked in secret until the very end. I knew I was my own judge until it leaves the house. To this day I show my drafts to no one."

"What is the most profound effect your writing had on your life?" one person asked.

"The process of writing ... changed my life. I had to invent the language for writing the story," he replied. "When I wrote the second novel, I had a style of writing that was created by the novel itself, an imaginary conversation between two powerful languages, English and Igbo. That was the greatest change in my whole career."

In response to another question, he said, "If you write in two languages, you must never think of one as primitive. ... My strict position on the matter of dialogue between equals [is that] you may be better than me, but not so much better that you can afford to have less than the perfect language." ◆

Gail Fineberg is editor of The Gazette, the Library's staff newsletter.

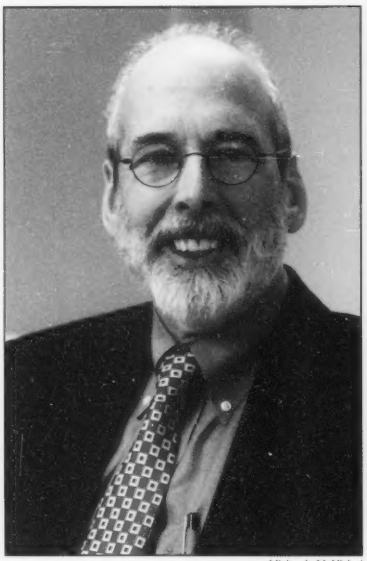
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

STAFF NEWS

Bluestone Is Chief of Science, Technology and Business Division

Ronald Bluestone has been named chief of the Library's Science, Technology and Business Division. He began his career at the Library in 1971. He was a reference librarian in the Local History and Genealogy Reading Room, the Microform Reading Room and the Main Reading Room of the Humanities and Social Sciences Division. He then served as the division's automated resources information specialist.

In 2001, Bluestone joined the Science, Technology and Business Division, serving as head of the Automation, Collections Support and Technical Reports Section. He held a collateral assignment as acting head of the Business Reference Section. He has served as acting chief of the division since September 2007.



Michaela McNichol

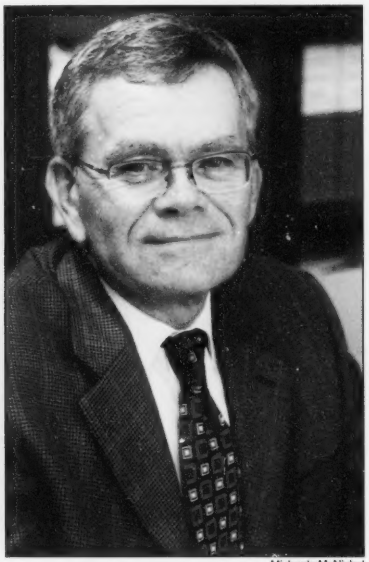
Ronald Bluestone

Bluestone holds a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from George Washington University. He conducted archaeological studies in Guatemala in conjunction with post-graduate course work in archaeology at Catholic University of America.

The Science, Technology and Business Division provides reference and bibliographic services and develops the general collections of the Library in all areas of science, technology, business and economics, with the exception of clinical medicine and technical agriculture, which are the subject specialties of the National Library of Medicine and the National Agricultural Library respectively. The division holds an extensive collection of more than 4.4 million U.S. and foreign technical reports and standards. For more information about the division, go to **www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/**.

Osborne Tapped to Lead Federal Research Division

David Osborne has been appointed chief of the Library's Federal Research Division (FRD). Osborne received a bachelor's degree in history and Russian from the University of Nebraska and a doctorate in Russian from Ohio State University. He joined FRD's Science and Technology Unit in 1978, where he performed research on physical oceanography and nuclear technology. In 1996, he became supervisor of the unit, continuing to research and write analytical reports on science and technology topics while supervising the research and report writing of staff-unit members. In 2000, he was promoted to head of FRD's Research Section, supervising 20 full-time research analysts and 25 additional expert contractors who perform a wide range of research projects. In addition to his supervisory research duties, Osborne has been responsible for FRD's marketing efforts.



Michaela McNichol

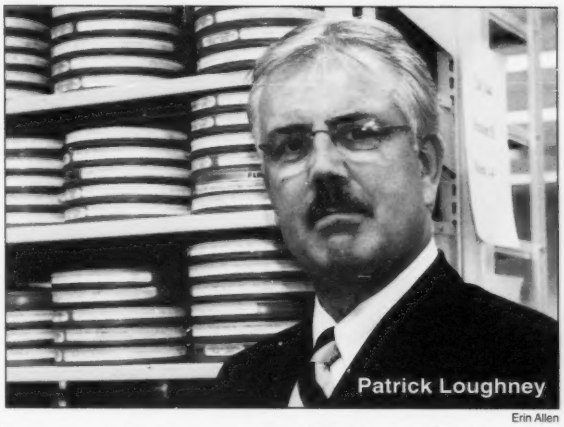
David Osborne

During his career in FRD, Osborne has contributed to a number of Library-wide initiatives. In the 1990s he co-wrote a report for the associate librarian for Constituent Services on the future space needs for the book collections and contributed to a special Librarian's task force on science and technology information in the Library. In 2006–2007, he participated in a working group for the Library Services Performance Planning and Management Program on promoting on-site research and scholarship at the Library.

Osborne has served as author or co-author of more than 100 studies, bibliographies and reference works, including "Domestic Trends to the Year 2015: Forecasts for the United States" and, most recently, "History of the U.S. Army Battle Command Training Program, 1987-2003."

The Federal Research Division provides research and analysis on a cost-recovery basis to federal agencies, the District of Columbia and authorized federal contractors. Through a comprehensive services agreement with the U.S. National Technical Information Service, FRD can provide custom research services to the private sector, state and local government, international organizations, and others. The division celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2008. *(See Information Bulletin, March 2008.)* For more information about the division, go to **www.loc.gov/rr/frd/**.

Loughney Named Chief of Packard Campus


Patrick Loughney

Erin Allen

The Library of Congress has appointed Patrick Loughney as the chief of the Library's Packard Campus for Audio-Visual Conservation in Culpeper, Va. Loughney will oversee the state-of-the-art facility where the Library acquires, preserves and provides access to the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of movies, television programs, radio broadcasts and sound recordings.

The Packard Campus (**www.loc.gov/avconservation/packard/**) offers globally unprecedented capabilities and capacities for the preservation and reformatting of all audiovisual media formats dating back to the 19th century. In addition to preserving the collections of the Library, the campus was also designed to provide similar preservation services for other archives and libraries in both the public and private sectors. The Packard Campus is the locus for three congressionally mandated boards charged with preserving the nation's audiovisual heritage: the National Film Preservation Board, the National Recording Preservation Board, and the American Television and Radio Archive.

Since January 2005, Loughney has been curator of the Motion Picture Department of George Eastman House Museum in Rochester, N.Y., and an adjunct faculty member at the University of Rochester. During that time, he also served as director of the L. Jeffrey Selznick School of Film Preservation at Eastman House.

Loughney was head of the Moving Image Section and Motion Picture and Television Reading Room in the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division of the Library of Congress from 1995-2005. He served in the military and earned a doctoral degree in American Studies from George Washington University in 1988, where he wrote his dissertation on the Library of Congress Paper Print Collection and the related public records in the Copyright Office.

Opened in July 2007, the Packard Campus was created through a unique partnership among the Packard Humanities Institute, the United States Congress, the Library of Congress, and the Architect of the Capitol. The facility, with a construction cost of more than $155 million, represents the largest-ever private gift to the Library of Congress and one of the largest ever to the federal government. *(See Information Bulletin July-August 2006 and July-August 2007.)*

Peter Young To Lead Asian Division

Peter Young

Peter R. Young, director of the National Agricultural Library (NAL) since 2002, has been appointed chief of the Asian Division of the Library of Congress.

A native of Washington, D.C., Young received a bachelor's degree in liberal arts from the College of Wooster and a master's degree in library science from Columbia University's School of Library Science. He served as a film-library specialist with the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Division (1968-1970) and was awarded three bronze star medals for meritorious achievement directing a Special Service Library in Chu Chi, Vietnam.

Young has held numerous professional positions in national, academic, research and public libraries, and has extensive government and industry experience. He is the only Chinese American librarian to hold high-level managerial positions at two U.S. national libraries.

Young joined the Library of Congress in 1980 as a customer services officer in the Cataloging Distribution Service (CDS). From 1984-1985, he served as assistant chief of the Library's MARC Editorial Division, and from 1985-1988 held the position of chief of the Cataloging Division of the U.S. Copyright Office.

In 1988, Young left the Library to direct Faxon Academic Information Services, where he founded the Faxon Institute for Advanced Studies in Scholarly and Scientific Communication. From 1990-1997, he served as executive director of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, an independent federal agency advising the president and Congress on library and information services and policies.

Young returned to the Library in 1997 to head the Cataloging Distribution Service. Prior to joining NAL in 2002, he served as acting chief of the Library's Asian Division.

An active member in the American Library Association, Young has made major contributions to the Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA), the Library Information Technology Association (LITA), the National Information Standards Organization (NISO), the Public Library Association (PLA) and the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA). He served as president of CALA from 1989-1990 and received the association's Distinguished Service Award in 2003.

The Library of Congress is a central repository for all types of Asian publications that are not broadly available at other locations in the United States. Initiated in 1869 with a gift of 10 works in 934 volumes offered to the United States by the Emperor of China, the Library's Asian collection of more than 2 million items is the largest and most comprehensive outside of Asia. For more information about the division, go to **www.loc.gov/rr/asian/**. ◆

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
101 INDEPENDENCE AVE. S.E.
WASHINGTON, DC 20540-1610

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRiVATE USE $300

PRESORTED STANDARD
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
WASHINGTON, DC
PERMIT No. G-103

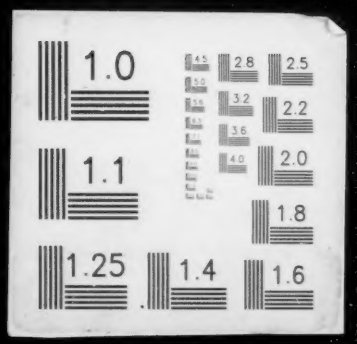
2110 **********AUTO**3-DIGIT 481 144 16
UNIV MICROFILMS INTN'L 005
ATTN SERIALS ACQUISITIONS DEPT
300 N ZEEB RD
ANN ARBOR MI 48103-1553

DATED MATERIAL

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSN 0041-7904

If you wish to be removed from the mailing list for this publication check here ☐ and return this page to the above address. If change is required enter on address label and return. To request missing issue(s) of the Bulletin, please address your inquires to the above address.


1.0
1.1
1.25
1.4
1.6
1.8
2.0
2.2
2.5
2.8
3.2
3.6
4.0
4.5